Tom Parr
copies

November 29, 1987

The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, Oregon 97217

To the Sports Editor:

The OSAA's AAA football playoff format, which sent an undefeated 11-0 Benson team to play at 9-2 Roseburg, is totally unfair. The team which has the better record should host the game. If the teams have identical records, a coin flip would be the fairest way of deciding the game site.

All other levels of football, including college and pro, use this simple guideline to determine playoff sites. Why is the OSAA using a system that does not reward consistency and excellence?

Roseburg was given the good fortune to host two undefeated teams, Churchill and Benson, at home. Despite their excellent record, they should not have been given this kind of an advantage over teams with flawless records.

I cannot help but feel that the OSAA's decision was based on economic considerations. Any playoff game hosted by football-mad Roseburg is sure to have a large crowd and, correspondingly, a large gate.

In the future, the OSAA should concern itself with determining the best team rather than enriching its coffers.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Bushman
2815 N. Baldwin
Portland, OR 97217

cc: OSAA

1987 is One - 1

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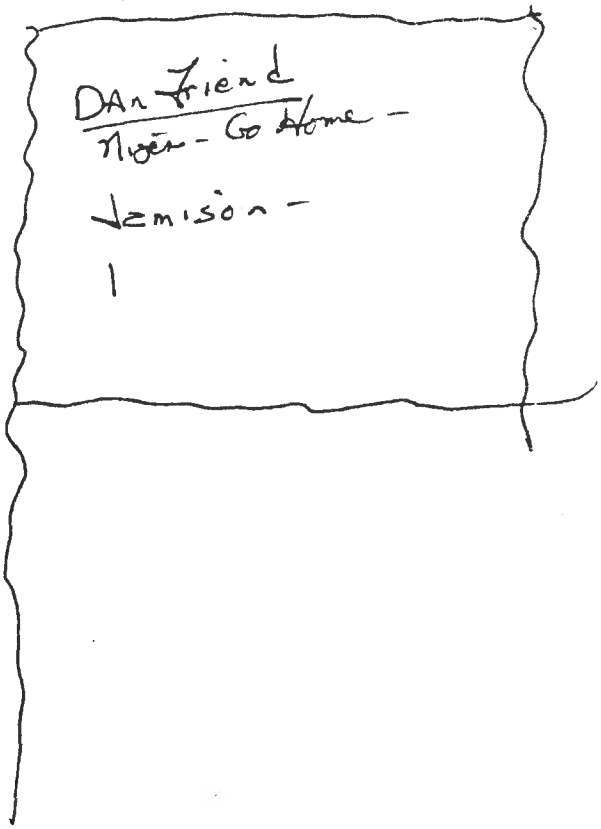

November 30, 1987

The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201

To the Sports Editor:

Roseburg football fans should examine their consciences concerning their treatment of Benson High School players and fans before, during, and after its quarter-final AAA football playoff game at Roseburg.

The racial taunts and remarks, and the intimidation and provocation in the form of pointing to a white cross, were totally unfair, prejudiced and unwarranted.

We did not ask nor want to go to Roseburg with its reputation for such narrow mindedness, but we accepted the OSAA's decision to send us there with no protest. Why do bigots have to take an athletic contest and turn it into an all-or-nothing crusade? Football fans of Roseburg need to re-examine their priorities and ask themselves whether winning a football game this way is worth the hard feelings and bitterness it fosters.

The word "nigger" still provokes powerful emotions and reactions.

Very truly yours,

Mimi Bushman
2815 N. Baldwin
Portland, OR 97217

cc: OSAA

December 1, 1987

The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201

To the Sports Editor:

The disparity in the number of penalties assessed against Roseburg and Benson in the quarter-final AAA football game at Roseburg illustrates dramatically the "small town vs. Portland" syndrome still existing in many of Oregon's small towns. Although the officials were from supposedly-neutral Coos Bay, the 15 penalties to 4 in favor of Roseburg gave them a significant advantage over Benson.

Small town loyalties that affect the outcome of a game between 16 and 17 year old boys are misfounded and misplaced. Why can't referees let the skills of the players determine the winner of the game? Why should adult biases determine any athletic contest?

Very truly yours,

Jerry Wack

cc: OSAA

6844 N.E. Claremont
Portland, Oregon 97211

December 01, 1987

Mr. Don Peterson
OSAA
6900 S.W. Haines
Suite 10020
Tigard, Oregon 97223

Mr. Peterson:

This letter is in regards to the OSAA playoff football game in Roseburg, November 27, 1987.

Please believe me when I say this letter is not a complaint regarding a game loss, but some concerns regarding the city of Roseburg and Roseburg High School.

First, the seating arrangements for the visiting team, Benson Tech of Portland, was split. General admission and reserved seating were on opposite sides of the playing field. Of course, that would have been alright if there had not been a general admission section next to the reserved. The person or committee handling this assignment was totally discourteous and uncaring. That situation signaled the first sign of "intimidation." We, the parents and friends of Benson's players, grumbled but felt since this is a small rural town gracious hospitality was not one of the priorities.

Second, I haven't found a weatherman who could tell me the rainfall in that day was so great or mysterious that it only left mud puddles around the football field and not around the immediate surrounding area. I am aware that a football field can be "soaked down" to slow down the speed of good runners. I, also, understand that this is usually done when coaches have little or no confidence in the ability of their team without an edge.

Next, the treatment of some of the family members from out-of-town was truly uncalled for. If they appeared to represent Benson with hats or jackets & etc, their request were ignored. Waiting in the concession lines was like waiting for the titanic to reach harbor. Some young people were harassed by Roseburg students or ex-students.

Third, the officiating, if we can use the word loosly was a total disgrace. I have never seen such flagrant and obnoxious behavior in my life. I have been involved in sporting events for over 25 years and after watching this ridiculous display of flags dropping, I wondered if the "James or Dalton" brothers had been resurrected. The only thing that could possibly

top this performance was the man in the crow's nest that yelled (with his mike on) "I know they're not calling that on us," when he saw one of the many flags drop. If he was looking for National Broadcasting, he has blown his opportunity. What did that statement mean? Several things come to mind: the officials were advised not to call against Roseburg - any violation was OK for Roseburg, but a no-no for Benson - they had called a flag too many against Roseburg??? Maybe the humor in this is that if the Olympic Commission had their names and addresses they would be good candidates for the track team in '88'. They literally "flew" from the field at the sound of the last buzzer.

Fourth, on leaving the parking lot, several cars were stopped and asked where they were headed. If Portland, they were next introduced to the pale, white naked rear-ends of the askers. The traditional sign language of the ignorant was next displayed by flipping the middle finger in the air. There was swearing and cussing at the passengers which further proved the low level of the mentality in this group.

I know that this letter will not change the outcome of that game, because the one-sided officiating has already sealed that. But I feel that the OSAA, should be aware of the treatment that can be expected by any team that comes to this city.

I feel the OSAA has sponsored these play-offs to give the athletes' the great challenge of competition, self-confidence and self-respect.

I know that the rowdies and misbehaviors can never be kept totally away from these functions, but the "security" I observed were in the stands and not doing their job of watching out for the protection and enjoyment of all.

I would suggest that if Roseburg reaches the play-offs next year that the OSAA think strongly about moving the game from this city and school ground.

There is so much conflict and strife in this world, that it would seem that a friendly game of football would be welcomed.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Mildred L. Johnson

cc: Benson
School District Supt.
High School Principal
Athletic Director
Head Coach

Roseburg
School District Supt.
High School Principal
Athletic Director
Head Coach

Norm Maves, oregonian

1 December, 1987

Mr. Don Peterson
Executive Secretary O.S.A.A.
6900 S.W. Haines Road Suite 120
Tigard, OR 97223

Mr. Peterson,

I am writing in regard to the shabby treatment that the Benson High School Football fans and players received at the Quarterfinal Play Off game held in Roseburg, Friday 27 November, 1987.

When we arrived at the Roseburg Football field, which includes 2 covered stadiums and 3 grandstands, the Benson fans that had reserved seat tickets were placed in a section behind the Roseburg Football team bench and alongside the Roseburg Rally squad, Band and Student section. Benson's Rally squad, Band and General Admission section were stuck in bleachers in front of the Roseburg General Admission section at the 10 yard line on the opposite side of the field. The Benson Football team, meanwhile, was on the same side of the field in front of the Roseburg Parent section.

It was quite obvious that Roseburg's intention was to diminish any encouragement that the Benson cheering section could offer to their team, by splitting us up.

Fan support is a very important factor to any team, and while Benson did not receive the home field advantage (for the second straight Play Off game this season) considering the distance involved, Benson fans showed up in record numbers to offer support to their team. This included 5 charter buses and numerous people that drove separately.

At half time we were not allowed to leave the stadium area to make a telephone call, unless we paid again. Roseburg was still charging admission at the gate and said that this was their rule.

Since this was supposed to be an O.S.A.A. sanctioned Play Off game, it seems to me that Roseburg should not have been allowed to run this Football game as they did, but should have been following O.S.A.A. guidelines. Never at any Football game, regular season or Play Off, have I been subjected to a seating arrangement as the one previously described, or to the mouthy, drunk and obnoxious Roseburg fans that we were required to sit with.

My feeling is that the O.S.A.A. should take charge of these High School Play Off games, to make sure that they are run fairly to both teams involved.

I hope that you will see to it that this unfortunate set of circumstances does not happen in the future to any High School Football Team.

Sincerely,

Kimra S. Corrado

Kimra S. Corrado
20582 S.W. 103rd Avenue
Tualatin, OR 97062
692-5226

cc Tom Parr, Principal Benson High School
Roseburg High School Athletic Director

December 2, 1987

Don Peterson, Executive Director
OSAA
6900 SW Haines Rd, #120
Tigard, OR 97223

Dear Mr. Peterson:

After viewing the state playoff game between Benson Tech and Roseburg High School, I feel it is necessary to write this letter of complaint, disgust and disappointment in AAA football and its standards.

We have no relatives playing for Benson, thus we were relatively impartial viewers. My daughter had a friend playing on the team.

To begin with, why did a No. 1 league champion have to travel to two third-place teams' home fields (Oregon City and Roseburg)? In my opinion, because of their record, Benson should have been the home team in both instances, or at least have played at a neutral field centrally located. I would like a response to this question and will continue to write or call if I don't receive one.

Secondly, Roseburg High School "let" Benson have a small section in each of their bleacher sections. The four different sections separated the approximately 200 Benson fans among the thousands of Roseburg fans. Roseburg used the words "F_____ You" in their cheers, that being the general mood in that town that night. I felt that sportsmanship was lacking and the adults were no examples for our teenagers. Where were your state officials to prevent this from happening? Again, I would like a response.

Third, the officiating was definitely questionable. I'm sure you will find that to be true when you watch the game on videotape. I know you will have to do this because you will receive more complaints. Matt Asay and Walter Bailey took the brunt of the bad calls. The last touchdown pass that was completed but called back was the straw that broke the camel's back. It took the refs a good three minutes to find a reason to not make that touchdown count. When a game is entirely one-sided in its calls, you know the refereeing is prejudiced and questionable. A playoff game is entirely too important to have that happen.

Even the announcer put in his two cents. He added and subtracted points in contrast to what the scoreboard showed. He also added and subtracted yards to the home team's advantage. He was playing mind games with Benson and its fans. I've never heard of or attended a game with such blatently biased officials.

Roseburg fans sitting near us laughed and said "Well, those refs sure got their money. It's not how you play the game, it's whether you have the refs in your pocket." When Benson's last touchdown was called back, they gloated "Those refs sure earned their money tonight." Please respond to me on this matter. I was totally appalled to think that a game having this much importance would be so totally in the hands of one team. Why? Where were your officials? Are you pleased with the results of the game?

This may be of no consequence to you but to these young men it was. To some of these boys, it was a once in a lifetime chance to play in a state playoff game. Yet adults took away any chance for it to be a fair contest. Adults wonder why kids take drugs, drink and commit suicide. Think about it -- they've been dealt some pretty unfair blows. I wouldn't want the consequences of this game weighing on my shoulders.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please respond to me as soon as possible.

A loving parent and child advocate,

Joanne M. Sanders
7308 N. Macrum
Portland, OR 97203

ROSEBURG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

547 WEST CHAPMAN AVENUE
ROSEBURG, OREGON 97470
PHONE: (503) 440-4142

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
Dial (503) 440-4162

December 2, 1987

Mr. Tom Parr
Principal
Benson High School
546 NE 12th
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Tom:

This has been such a busy week that I have not had time to write earlier. As a matter of fact, I'm writing this at 5:30 AM because I know I won't have time when I get to school. I wanted to let you know, as a result of our phone call earlier in the week, my feelings regarding last week's game.

Tom, please accept my apologies for any and all problems you and your fans experienced at our place last Friday. It is not our intention to create negative situations for any visitor to RHS.

Part of the problem was a mis-firing of communication between Mike and myself. I somehow over-estimated the number of fans you would bring to the game. We could have put all of your supporters, adults, and students, on the same side of the field all under cover which I'm sure would have reduced much of the concern. I will make sure that future playoff situations are handled more efficiently. We don't get many home playoff games and what has worked so well for league opponents over the years obviously needs adjustment for playoffs.

This letter probably won't mollify your booster group, but please pass along to them my sincere apologies for any inconviences they experienced. Also, please let Mike and your coaching staff know that we hold them in high esteem and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Benson High is a class act in Oregon High School athletics and has been so for years. We at RHS want to be your friendly competition, not your adversaries. While playoff intensity undoubtedly added to the problem last week, we want you to know that we never intend to purposely inconvenience our visitors. If I had the top half of the north grandstand available for seating this kind of a situation wouldn't occur. That, however, is our problem, not yours, and once again I apologize to you on behalf of RHS for last Friday's seating arrangements.

Sincerely,

Bill Welch,
Athletic Director
p.c. Steve Iverson, RHS Principal

December 3, 1987

The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201

To the Sports Editor:

I came away disgusted with AAA football and its standards after viewing the state football playoff game between Benson Tech and Roseburg High School on Nov. 27th. Although the Benson players bore the brunt of Roseburg fans' hostility by having racial insults shouted at them before the game ("Go home, niggers"), the approximately 200 Benson fans were separated into four small sections of the grandstands holding the 2-3,000 Roseberg fans, were spat on, called "nigger lovers" and had their attention drawn to a white cross lit above the field. Although the OSAA cannot undo this travesty, I hope it changes its format for future state playoff games. No racially-mixed high school team should ever again have to play as visitors in Roseburg under these conditions.

Roseburg fans worked "F_____ You" into their cheers, that being the general mood in Roseburg that night. The disparity in the number of penalties (15 against Benson and 4 against Roseburg) provoked Roseburg fans to remark "It's not how you play the game....it's whether you've got the refs in your pocket." Where were adult models for good sportsmanship? Where were security people or OSAA officials to control such blatant bigotry and intimidation?

Adults wonder why kids take drugs, drink and commit suicide. To these high school boys, it was a once in a lifetime chance to play in a state football playoff game, yet adults took away any chance for it to be a fair contest. I wouldn't want the consequences of this game weighing on my shoulders.

Very truly yours,

Joanne M. Sanders

Joanne M. Sanders
7308 N. Macrum
Portland, OR 97203

December 7, 1987

To Whom it may Concern:

In my attempt to ask for justice, I would like to ask for a little of your time and understanding. I'm sure that there are many different obligations, you the OSAA have to tend to, but there has been an act of unjust behavior involving the OSAA, which has effected several people in an unpleasant way. I feel that you the OSAA should be concerned in what I am about to say.

On November 24, 1987 the day after Thanksgiving, the Benson Tech football team and many of it's fans and followers started their day with a long and somewhat discomforting bus ride to the Benson vs Roseburg OSAA playoff game. The Techmen and their fans were very excited and anxious to get to Roseburg for the Benson vs Roseburg quarter final OSAA playoff game.

When we arrived the Benson fans were immediately separated from the Benson supporting Band & Rally members. This brought questions to the Benson supporters and in the event of a football game which consists of one team being dominated with the opponents supporting crowd. I feel that Benson needed all the support they could get as far as support.

Separating our crowd from our rally and band members was very [redacted] inconvieniant and displeasing to Bensons team and their supporters.

Discriminating racial remarks and comments were stated through out the game. These comments were directed to the players as well as our fans. This kind of hostile and unjust behavior brought intimidation and distraction to the Benson team members. There were very discomforting comments made by the officials directed to our coaches. The whole Roseburg environment was very hostile and I feel unfit to play football in the best of one's ability. Our fans paid a great amount of money to go and see a comforting and fair playoff game. I feel that they were robbed as well as the team was. I feel that those key points that I have just mentioned need attention.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Anthony Sherman

December 8, 1987

To The Principal
Benson High School
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir,

I am a junior at Roseburg High School. I know that I cannot withdraw any derogatory remarks or actions made by any of my classmates, but I hope that you will accept my apology. I attended the game on November 27th, and was not aware of any remarks and/or actions made that were disparaging to your school or the student body.

As for the rumor concerning the lighted cross on Mt. Nebo, that cross has been there every year, long before I was born. The cross is usually lit from November 1st through January 1st, and then through the Lenten season. I am truly sorry for any misunderstanding on your part.

I am in hopes that this will clear up any misguided feelings about our community and school.

Respectfully yours,

Lisa McLaughlin

Lisa Mc Laughlin

December 8, 1987

Principal
Benson Polytechnical High School
546 N. E. 12 th
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Sir;

I attended the Benson/Roseburg football game. I sat, with my son (Roseburg High, class '81), in the Benson general attendance bleacher section. I sat there because I was told to do so by security people. I had wanted to stand near the playing field. There were several other people from Roseburg in that section. I did not hear a single racial slur from any Roseburg area fan in that section. I can neither support or deny any claims of racial discrimination. I deeply regret any "truths" of racism that may have occurred during the evening.

In the same article that informed me of the alleged racism I also learned that a basketball game between Grant and Roseburg was cancelled. I am not in a position to evaluate that decision. However, I believe that it can only exacerbate tensions. More recently I was informed that the game was cancelled due to a conflict with the football playoff scheduling !?

I am a former Roseburg faculty member. I am also a graduate of Benson (class of '54), I participated in two State Football Tournments, was president of the Orange B, recipient of the Harry H. Hardgraves Sportsmanship award, and was a member/officer of several organizations.

The next time that you have a student general assembly I wish that you would impart to the students that there are Techmen everywhere rooting for them. There are thousands of good people in Roseburg who are not racially orientated.

High school athletics must always be sportsmanship first and competition second. There are no losers in sports if we maintain a true prosepective.

Sincerely yours,

Gary N. Woodle

Gary N. Woodle
1593 N. E. Ridge Ave.
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

cc: Principal Roseburg High School

P.S. I feel that the Oregon State High School Athletic Association should ban black, or exteremly dark, uniform colors for night high school games. This is not a new opinion on my part. The Roseburg/Benson game was played under poor lighting, in fog, with a generally dark stadium background. Aside from giving an advantage to the team in dark I believe that it increases the potential for injuries for players which must always be the paramount issue.

PRINCIPAL
BENSON HIGH SCHOOL

THE ATTACHED ARTICLE IS OF COURSE RIGHT - I KNOW ROSEBURG PRETTY WELL THE VAST MAJORITY OF CITIZENS ARE NOT RACIST - A FEW ARE - BECAUSE OF FREE SPEECH IN THIS COUNTRY - THE BEST COURSE IS TO ~~[illegible]~~ IGNORE THESE RACIST NITWITS.

ITS TOO BAD THE TERMS "NIGGER" AND "HONKEY" ARE STILL IN USE IN OREGON - BUT OVERREACTING IS NO SOLUTION -

IT WAS PROPER TO BRING TO LIGHT THE PROBLEMS BENSON SUPPORTERS HAD IN ROSEBURG WAS PROPER — CANCELLING INTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS IS NOT PROPER —

AS A SCHOOL LEADER YOU SHOULD REALLY KNOW BETTER - POLARIZING SOLVES FEW PROBLEMS

Bob Woodburn

NEW ADDRESS
Bob & Betty Woodburn
12636 N.E. Siskiyou Street
Portland, Oregon 97230

City's schools only worsen bad situation

Everything that could have gone wrong at Roseburg's Finlay Field did on the night of Nov. 27. Everything that could be getting worse is.

What Benson High School's football team and its supporters endured in its state quarterfinal playoff game ranged, by most accounts, from boorish to inexcusable.

The hostile reception that visiting teams have come to expect anywhere in the playoffs was intensified by the persistent use of racial epithets we'd rather associate with southern Mississippi than Southern Oregon. Players were vilified and fans were hassled.

"No school should have to go through what we went through," Benson senior Michelle Klein said. "It was rude and unkind."

But it wasn't just cause for the Portland Public Schools to cancel two Grant High School games at Roseburg in January. Given the choice to defuse tensions or provoke further hostilities, Portland Public Schools officials took the low, reactionary road.

Worse yet, that may have been the motive in continuing this madness. One Portland Interscholastic League athletic director said that an uneventful trip south by Grant might have defused the protest Benson supporters have planned for the Oregon School Activities Association. "They didn't want to run the risk of a good experience or a bad one," the athletic director said.

What happened on Nov. 27 in Roseburg warrants protest. No doubt the indignities were accentuated by a seating mixup and the number of Techmen penalties in the 21-19 loss, as well as anticipated: "The black people expected to be treated that way," said running back Kenneth Vaughn, who is black. "It's Roseburg. It's happened a lot."

But no one argues that there was a definite racial accent on the abuse that met the Techmen. Roseburg Athletic Director Bill Welch contends, "Some actions by Benson supporters were equally obnoxious and obscene," but I take that to mean the Benson gang simply met fire with fire.

When Klein, who is white, was called a "nigger-lover" for the second time by a white teen-ager she believed to be a Roseburg student, she challenged him heatedly. When Vaughn wearied of hearing a middle-aged white woman scream, "Run faster, nigger," he flipped her an obscene gesture. After scoring a fourth-quarter touchdown, he also flipped her the ball.

Vaughn was immediately penalized five yards for delay of game.

A vocal segment of Roseburg should be penalized for an absence of humanity. But the Portland Public Schools has only made a bad situation worse by cancelling Grant's games.

Few feel this more strongly than John Stilwell, Grant's boys basketball coach. "They have a concern," Stilwell said, "but I find it hard to believe that the principal at Benson and a few parents over there can dictate that we can't go play a game.

"It's our people reacting to community pressure. It's a shame. It just continues the problem. It polarizes us even more."

Sounding very much like the voice of reason, Stilwell suggested perspective is taking a beating. "Any time you take people out of the city, there's a certain expectation. We've had problems at Dallas, Silverton, Molalla. It's a situation where you're invading their territory. There's a natural confrontation. You're going to have heated exchanges."

Name-calling, Stilwell said, is par for the course at athletic events. "I don't think it's any different than when Roseburg plays Medford or Roseburg plays Corvallis. When the city teams go, and you add having black players, it's suddenly in a different arena."

Asked how the Generals face down racial prejudice and epithets, Stilwell said, "We just beat them. Our whole point is if they're going to call us names, they're going to suffer the indignity of us beating them. We've had problems, but nothing that's ever made us say we're never going to play down there again. Right now the black kids up here are afraid of what they've heard. My kids want to know what's going to happen. I said, 'Nothing's going to happen. I guarantee the people of Roseburg will treat you well.'"

That would have helped make the peace, but the peacemakers don't seem to be in control at Benson. "We've made that point privately here," Welch said. "A positive experience, like all those basketball trips have been, would definitely defuse the Benson boosters."

Some of those boosters are understandably upset, but understanding between these two communities — if that's what all this is about, rather than one lousy football game — is poorly served by a decision that labels Roseburg hostile territory.

Instead of a truce, the Portland Public Schools are asking for more trouble. And that's a call, given the chance to pair black off against white, that trouble loves to answer.

couple of pieces of round steel, and some materials, he constructed a working model of a steam engine.

His master soon afterwards got him the place of a helper in the department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy in the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He sold his first steam engine to a Midshipman. With the proceeds, and what money he could lay up (his master allowing him five dollars a month out of his wages), he built an engine large enough to drive the first cutter of a sloop-of-war at the rate of sixteen knots an hour. . . .

Professor Hopkins, of the Academy, says that he gets up the experiments for the lecture-room very handsomely. Being shown once how to line up the parabolic mirrors for concentrating heat, he always succeeds afterwards. So with the chemical experiments. he makes all the gasses, and works with them, showing the Drummond light, &c. Prof. Hopkins remarks of him that "HE LOOKS FOR THE LAW BY WHICH THINGS ACT."

He has been taught to read and write, mainly by the Professor's children; has made very good progress in arithmatic, and will soon take hold of algebra and geometry.

The Anglo-African Magazine. Vol 1 (November 1859) p. 367. Reprinted from the Journal of Commerce.

Aha! The youth had mastered the 'Scientific Method' (caps above). How many of equally intelligent youngsters can we rescue here in our local system. It will take all of us, administrators, teachers, parents, and THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. Let us work at it — Not to despair.

Cited in text: ' Plato. The Timaeus: ' Manuel Isaac Newton Historian ' James George G.M Stolen Legacy: ' Tompkins Peter The Secrets of the Great Pyramid

Commissioner Dick Bogle Speaks Out Against Racism

Every school in every city and town in Oregon should be looking at what happened in Roseburg. Administrators, teachers and students should join in discussing the root causes, and ways to make sure the "monster" doesn't rise in their own backyards.

The Oregon School Activities Association should not sidestep the issue. Roseburg High — and, more appropriately, the people responsible for disgracing their school and their town — need to have their shame brought home. It could come in the form of athletic probation, and/or a fine. But it must come. Anything less will add insult to injury.

I am drafting a letter to the OSAA, telling them it is their "clear duty to make an example of Roseburg High." I am sending a second letter to every legislator, and every school board in the state, urging them to raise public consciousness through community forums. I call on everyone to join me in keeping this issue fresh in the public's mind, so that we can get a dialogue going, and turn the deplorable events in Roseburg to a positive end.

We have been handed a golden opportunity by the bigots who crawled out from under the rocks and heaped shame on the decent citizens of Roseburg.

It is an opportunity to stimulate a statewide discussion of racism and bigotry — to bring it out into the light of day, and have young people look at it for what it is.

This in no time for hand-wringing, or letting anger cloud our judgement. Let's give the system a chance to work.

PORTLAND OBSERVER -

Cleveland High (picture below)

Millie Glover (2nd from L), whose daughter is a student at Cleveland H.S., asks questions of Robert O'Neil, Principal at Cleveland, concerning racial incidents. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Apology From Roseburg

The following statement was given to Nyewusi Askari December 14, 1987, 11:00 a.m. by Mr. Steve Iberson, Principal, Roseburg High School.

"On behalf of Roseburg Senior High School and on behalf of the community at large, I would like to share that this community is deeply hurt by the allegations related to the football contest with Benson High School. It is very disappointing that a few people can give off a message that's certainly not representative of this community or Roseburg High School. This community, nor Roseburg High School, will not have any part of, or contribution to, any forms of racial incidents.

It is my hope that the alleged racial incidents are not construed as a philosophy, a way of thinking, a practice or a racial perception on the part of Roseburg High School or the Roseburg community by students of Benson High School or the community at large in Portland.

To the contrary, we feel really good about what has happened in Roseburg in the past in our contests with the basketball and football programs that have come down and participated. It has been a very positive experience for our community. Many times team members have stayed overnight at the homes of both our students and athletes, and it's been just a super, rewarding experience.

It would be a sad time, I believe, for interscholastic athletics and academics when school cannot come together and share blessings of fellowship and competition. That has been our experience in the past. It would be our hope, and the hope of our students, that we can continue to work to develop the type of school relations that will bring about the kind of world where all people can live and share with each other. We're certainly not going to allow anyone or anything to prevent us from making a very positive step in this direction.

I think one of the things both communities can now work on is engage in more athletic contests, and give more articulation of our arts and academic programs. I think the more contact we have between both communities, the closer we'll get to our ultimate goal of productive growth of our students and citizens.

Whether this contact be cultural or athletic, there is always going to be those who don't see the greater good of the purpose. Those people certainly don't represent Roseburg

From Roseburg article...

High School or the larger community of Roseburg. I have heard some really positive comments about the relationship between the teams from the city of Portland and the Roseburg community. The good far outweighs the ugliness or the problems we've had.

I certainly apologize for the actions of anybody who caused problems for the students and fans from Portland's Benson High School. I am not aware of who they are or who they were, but for the best interest of everybody, I would not want that to represent the school of Roseburg or the community. We will work hard to maintain a positive association with our neighbors from Portland and elsewhere.

We would welcome, at any time, groups, schools or individuals to contact us to further discuss this issue. I am confident that our students feel the same way."

Parent Advisory Committee Reports on School Transportation Safety Recommendations

by Nyewusi Askari

After many hours of observing boarding and unloading of buses, examining training and safety records, talking to school bus drivers, school staff members, bus loaders and community agents, the Transportation Parent Advisory Committee has submitted its recommendations for the safety of young school children.

The Committee found that the existing Transportation Guidelines clearly identified the extra care that must be given to four-year-old students, but felt that the existing procedures should be strengthened by the adoption of uniform identification methods. The Committee also found that King, Boise-Eliot and Chapman schools have used outstanding efforts to assure the safe return of their students. They have been successful in using color coded tags, check-off lists or roll calls.

The Committee's report is the result of a request by Superintendent Dr. Matthew Prophet, after several young school children were mistakenly allowed to get off school buses without anyone to meet or escort them to their destination. Dr. Prophet asked the Committee to conduct a department review.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- All pre-kindergarten through second grade must wear identification tags from the start of school until October 15th;
- Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students must wear identification tags during the entire school year and be instructed by bus loaders. This measure must be adopted and enforced by all schools;
- Identification tags must be standardized for the entire district and should be the same in size, material and information on them;
- All pre-kindergarten students must be met. Drivers must assure students are met. Students' grade, not age, shall determine if they must be met at their home bus stop;
- In the beginning of the school year, parents should be encouraged to volunteer to ride buses during the first few weeks;
- Schools should be encouraged to establish a "buddy-system" in which an older student assists new, young students to acquire bus riding skills;
- Parents should be encouraged to practice with their children the best, safest way to and from the bus stop. They should also discuss with their children alternative plans in case they are prevented from meeting their children when the bus arrives.

Upon submitting its report and recommendation, the Committee said that all persons contracted to participate in the review, including Mr. Ed Green, Mr. Peter Gregg, and the staff of Laidlaw Bus Service, were very responsive and gave their full cooperation.

Members of the Committee said they hope their recommendations will prove to be helpful and contribute to the added safety of students in Portland Public Schools.

SPORTS MAIL

Roseburg bias shown

To the Sports Editor: Roseburg football fans should examine their consciences about their treatment of Benson High School players and fans before, during and after its quarterfinal playoff game at Roseburg last week.

The racial taunts and remarks, and the intimidation and provocation were totally unfair, prejudiced and unwarranted.

We did not ask nor want to go to Roseburg with its reputation for such narrow-mindedness, but we accepted the OSAA's decision to send us there with no protest. Why do bigots have to take an athletic contest and turn it into an all-or-nothing crusade? Football fans of Roseburg need to re-examine their priorities and ask themselves whether winning a football game this way is worth the hard feelings and bitterness it fosters.

MIMI BUSHMAN
Portland

Benson fans spat on, insulted

To the Sports Editor: I came away disgusted with AAA football and its standards after watching the playoff game between Benson and Roseburg last week. The Benson players bore the brunt of Roseburg fans' hostility by having racial insults shouted at them before the game. But the approximately 200 Benson fans were separated into four small sections of the grandstands holding 2,000-3,000 Roseburg fans, were spat upon and called names. Although the OSAA can't undo this travesty, I hope it changes its format for future playoff games. No racially mixed high school team should ever again have to play in Roseburg under those conditions.

JOANNE M. SANDERS
Portland

s up at
High
3

THE SKANDER

NW Music Awards
See Page 1 & 12-13

87 "NO OTHER CAN SPEAK FOR US" 25

Racism During Roseburg Playoff Stirs Benson

By Patrick Mazza

IN THE WAKE OF ALLEGED RACIST incidents at the Triple A state high school football playoff game in Roseburg Nov. 27 between the Roseburg Indians and Benson Techman, about 50 parents, players and Benson staff gathered at Benson Dec. 1 to develop their response.

In the wake of alleged racist incidents at the Triple A state high school football playoff game in Roseburg Nov. 27 between the Roseburg Indians and Benson Techman, about 50 parents, players and Benson staff gathered at Benson Dec. 1 to develop their response.

Black students related incidents of people in Roseburg trying to jump them, spitting on them and using racial slurs. One parent said cheerleaders were pelted with objects.

Black students related incidents of people in Roseburg trying to jump them, spitting on them and using racial slurs.

As players were warming up in the middle of the field, Mimi Bushman related, Roseburg residents shouted, "Go home nigger," and pointed to a lit up white cross on a bluff near the field.

The cross was a Christmas decoration, according to Debi Sluetsch at Roseburg City Hall.

Benson Coach Bill Pressel said Roseburg youth shouted racial epithets at the rooters bus as it was leaving to head back to Portland.

"They showcased Roseburg's ignorance," Pressel commented.

"That's the most hostile place I have ever seen," said Jerry Bushman, father of quarterback Joe Bushman. "I am not Black. But I felt a little threatened. I felt uneasy about getting out of there."

The multiracial crowd at the Benson meeting was about evenly balanced between Black and white.

Continued on Page 3

Benson... *Continued from page 1*

Though she was warned Roseburg was going to be hostile, "I had no idea it was going to be that bad," said Faith K. Schultz, who helped organize the meeting. For players and fans, Roseburg was "an emotional ambush," she said.

"It could have turned into a very ugly mess," Myra Faison said. But the Benson youth basically brushed off the Roseburg taunts. "Our kids are to be commended for seeing ignorance for what it was," she said.

The Benson group has scheduled another meeting for the Benson Auditorium Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. The group plans to invite the Oregon Student Athletic Association to send a representative.

Benson lost the quarter final game 21-19. The meeting saw complaints about having to play the game on Roseburg's home turf and the quality of refereeing.

Player Kenny Vaughn asked the crowd if they would have been there if Benson had won the game. From around the crowd came answers of "Yes."

With Benson having a good shot of making playoffs in future years, Benson parents, staff and players want to make sure they do not have to face the same situations again.

"We just don't want to have to go down to Roseburg," Jerry Bushman said.

"I really am concerned to get something done so our kids do not have to suffer that again," Schultz said.

One Black parent said that Blacks should reconsider whether to let their children be sent to such places as Roseburg. A white parent responded that the racist incidents upset him just as much, drawing applause from around the room.

Pressel said he has urged Benson's principal to consider sending only the team in the future to places known to be hostile. The school or parents should not send drill teams or extra buses full of fans if they are going to be mistreated, Pressel said.

Pressel feels the Nov. 27 game should have been held on neutral ground, such as Eugene's Autzen Stadium.

Vaughn noted that Blacks often have to face racial harassment in places as close as Beaverton and Hillsboro.

"This is not the first time," Vaughn said. "These are things we expected."

To the O.S.A.A.

The negative experience that was taught to our children and fans in Baseburg, the Racism, the nigger-remarks, and the welcoming of the lighted cross.

I understand that knowledgeable and responsible people tried unsuccessfully to have the event moved to a neutral site, however, the O.S.A.A. chose not to support this request. Why?

The remarks aimed at parents and students alike ie nigger put your helmet on, nigger you better run faster than that, and the one worst of all, what is a nigger lover? I realize what is implied by the cross, but I thought it would be in the South

not Southern Oregon.

As a concerned parent I would pray that a positive experience would be the main goal of the O.S.A.A. In Brebury you provided the wrong experience, but one I could not teach (no thanks).

If this is what our young people can expect in the future (The Basin) which is my only concern, then supply security or a neutral site.

Mr. F. L. Hall

6133 N.E. 9th

97211

December 14, 1987

Mr. Dick Iverson
Principal
Roseburg High School
547 W. Chapman
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Dear Mr. Iverson:

How can you attempt to minimize the racial incidents at the Benson/Roseburg quarterfinal football game when your own students acknowledged they took place (KGW TV newscast of 12/12/87)? If neither you, your two assistant principals, or your athletic director "had seen anything untoward at the game" (Oregonian, 12/9/87), how can you later conclude the accounts of the incidents were "distorted" (KGW newscast, 12/11/87)? Is it necessary that you also hear the dozen or more Benson parents' and students' first-hand accounts that OSAA representatives heard on 12/11/87?

The letters of apology from Athletic Director Welch and two Roseburg residents (Oregonian, 12/13/87) are most appreciated. However, I fear the OSAA will categorize this game's problems with more isolated incidents of the past. How many is "a few meanspirited morons" (blamed for the incidents by Roseburg residents) in a crowd of 3,000? 30? 100? Our testimony recounted many separate incidents by different individuals and groups of Roseburg fans.

Perhaps the reason Roseburg's reputation for such incidents continues is that persons like yourself attempt to hide or minimize them instead of taking the first step toward eliminating them, which is to condemn them.

Very truly yours,

Mimi Bushman
Benson Parent

cc: Don Peterson, OSAA
Ron Pheister, PIL
Larry Ayers, Portland Public Schools
Jeff Wohler, The Oregonian
Tom Parr, Benson High School
Bill Dressel, Benson High School
Kay Schultz, Benson Parents

La Pine, Or.
12/20/87

Re: Nigger Parents of Benson High School Footbal1
at State Playoffs at Roseburg, Or.

First of all, the nigger parents were very fortunate they were not "wasted"..

A. Niggers are not only un-wanted in Portland and/or Oregon, they are NOT WANTED.

B. Niggers are not only un-welcome in Portland and/or Oregon, they are NOT WELCOME.

C. This also goes for the Portland Trail-nigger-pukes-Blazers.

The only logical and rational solution to the Cancerous Nigger Plague in Portland and/or Oregon, and elsewhere throughout the United States is commence the immediate construction of facilities all over the country and round up all niggers and systematically exterminate them just like Mr. Hitler did with the Jews.

2-H-Non
House or Hire No Niggers U.S.A.
200 Million Members Border to Border
and Coast to Coast

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GAMES WITH ROSEBURG CANCELLED

KGW TV CH 8

20 DECEMBER 87

11:07 PM

NEWSCASTER STEVE KNIGHT: Portland high school teams will not play games in Roseburg; so says the director of Portland School Athletics. When Benson High School tangled with Roseburg High in November, Benson players were victims of facial taunts. Roseburg school officials contend Benson fans were also to blame for shouting back.

Benson parents complained to the Oregon School Activities Association. Now the school district athletic director has cancelled all future games in Roseburg, to avoid possible future problems.

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COMMENTARY OF ROSEBURG CONFLICT

KGW TV CH 8

21 DECEMBER 87

5:25 PM

NEWSCASTER TRACY BARRY: Well, one of the people who doesn't like the decision is our news analyst, Jon Tuttle. Here's tonight's commentary.

COMMENTATOR JON TUTTLE: What went wrong in Roseburg wasn't on the playing field, it was in the stands, where some sensible Roseburg residents didn't tap the few noisy, white bigots on the shoulders and tell the to behave themselves. It's an embarrassment for Roseburg that's being splashed across the state and threatens to label the community as a center for prejudice and bad manners.

What happened certainly isn't new. Here at KGW, one of our assignment editors, a black man named Tom Brown, remembers playing football for Benson in the 1960's and getting the same kind of treatment from the fans of a rival team; only it wasn't in Roseburg, it was an away game for Benson, but only as far away as the other side of the river. People were yelling "nigger" when Benson played football at Wilson High School. Looking back on it, Tom says he grew up in a household where his parents warned him to expect that kind of treatment from time to time. The only way to avoid it was to stay home, and Tom says if he'd done that, he'd still be on Union and Fremont today.

Our problem is that the leaders in the PIL aren't as savvy as Tom Brown's parents. The PIL has opted for the alternative of letting the bigots win. It's an unpleasant prospect for some black players to go back into Roseburg, Oregon, and the possibility of further racial abuse, but they should go back because there are long-term objectives to be served. One of the reasons we have high school athletics is that they build character. And, now, more than ever, we see there are people in Roseburg, Oregon, who desperately need that kind of help. I'm Jon Tuttle.

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BENSON/GRANT CONFLICT

KOIN TV CH 6

21 DECEMBER 87

5:37 PM

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SPORTSCASTER RICK METSGER: Unfortunate situation down there last month, but it just seems to continue to boil over. You know, earlier this month, charges of taunting and namecalling overshadowed an excellent state high school football game in Roseburg between the Indians and Benson Tech. Now, the scars refuse to be healed.

Roseburg won the playoff game with Benson in the Portland Interscholastic League, in fact advanced all the way to the state final. But, some Benson supporters claim they were the recipients of racial prejudice at the game, and Athletic Director Bill Welch has been busy answering his phone ever since.

BILL WELCH, ROSEBURG ATHLETIC DIRECTOR (ON PHONE): Basically, some unhappy parents who didn't like the final score, didn't like their seating arrangements, and...and, you know, I'm sure there were some things said that were rascist that we would prefer that Roseburg's fans wouldn't do, but some of their people did the very same kind of things.

METSGER: Now the PIL has announced that Grant High's basketball team has cancelled its plans to travel to Roseburg next month, in order to avoid a potential recurrence of problems. Others argue all it will do is intensify the conflict.

WELCH: ...think the solution, we felt all along, was that Grant's basketball team would come down here and be treated wonderfully, like every PIL Basketball Team has that's been here, and that would be probably the one major solution to the criticism. However, we also believe...I believe that, and I know that some of the people in the Portland area believe this too--non-Benson people--that Grant isn't coming because they would have a very positive experience, and it would dilute the Benson protest.

METSGER: For now, tensions remain, desperately in need of healing.

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ROSEBURG GAMES CANCELLED

KGW TV CH 8

21 DECEMBER 87

5:23 PM

RECEIVED
DEC 2 1987
PUBLIC INFORMATION
PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWSCASTER TRACY BARRY: Portland School District administrators have cancelled two Grant High School basketball games in Roseburg. They say racial incidents at a Benson High School football game in Roseburg a month ago prompted that decision. The only Portland school to have a scheduled game in Roseburg was Grant High. Its boys' and girls' teams have planned to play there January second.

The district's athletic director, with the superintendent's backing, believes Grant has nothing to gain by going down there and fears that another racial incident could make matters worse. Roseburg's athletic director had this reaction:

BILL WELCH, ROSEBURG ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: ...is that Grant would come down and play basketball in a week or so, they would have a tremendously positive experience, as everyone of the PIL Basketball Teams has had that has come here, and that would be a real defusing development for the Benson support group that doesn't want something positive to happen here because it would weaken their argument and reduce their credibility.

BARRY: Meantime, Grant's coach wants his team to play Roseburg. In the past, team members have spent the night with families there, and the coach believes that could only help foster better race relations. However, no one from Grant or the Portland Public Schools would say any of this on camera. All involved, including the superintendent, turned down our requests for interviews.

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GRANT CANCELLATION DECISION

KATU TV CH 2

21 DECEMBER 87

5:43 PM

SPORTSCASTER STEVE ARENA: Locally, it's offical, the Grant boys and girls basketball team's trip to Roseburg for games in January has been called off by PIL Athletic Director, Ron Feister. Racial tensions intensified during the football playoffs when Benson travelled to Roseburg. So, Feister, who refused to talk to us on camera, told us by phone that he'd accept criticism by the media rather than take another chance on more problems.

Meanwhile, Grant coach John Stilwell told us today he's upset by the cancellation but he will abide by the PIL's decision.

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ROSEBURG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

547 WEST CHAPMAN AVENUE.
ROSEBURG, OREGON 97470
PHONE: (503) 440-4142

RECEIVED
DEC 21 1987
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
DOUGLAS SCHOOL DIST NO 4

cc: Ron Phillips
Donald McElroy
Sandy 12/21

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ROSEBURG COMMUNITY

FROM: STEVE IVERSON, PRINCIPAL ROSEBURG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
DR. RICHARD EISENHAUER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ROSEBURG, OR
BILL WELCH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, ROSEBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recently Roseburg Senior High School, our sports program, and our community have been the subject of much negative publicity in the newspapers and elsewhere. Unfortunately, a perception has been created that racial bias, racist actions, and poor sportsmanship prevail in Roseburg. This seems to be the picture that a few people have painted of us related to the Benson football game.

Your student athletes, coaches, teachers, staff, administration, and school board are bothered by all of this. We think it is unfair and certainly does not typify our school or community. As a result, we have conducted an investigation of that event which has revealed the following facts:

1. There were not any organized or planned incidents by either individuals or groups related to racism or poor sportsmanship during this event.

2. There were no formal or informal complaints of either racism or violence during the contest presented to either the security personnel or the administrative staff. To most spectators, this was a very hard-fought, competitive contest. There was nothing significantly different in this contest from most championship caliber games.

3. Roseburg Senior High School officials were not advised until the following week that there were some isolated incidents involving unspecified individuals using either racial slurs or obscenities. These individuals were identified to be both adults and young people, both Benson and Roseburg residents, both white and black.

4. Regarding the officiating of the game: Officials for all playoff games are selected by the OSAA. Therefore, these officials were not from the Roseburg area as some have implied. As a service, the OSAA has reviewed the game tapes and accordingly they have supported the decisions of the officiating team based upon the tapes. In short, the game was conducted fairly and played very well.

5. Stadium Facility/Seating: It is apparent to most of our community that we have an inadequate athletic facility. Our needs are well known and we are working hard to improve this facility. However, we believe we have demonstrated good faith compliance with OSAA guidelines related to both opponent ticket-seating policies and protocol for visiting team accomodations. Again - we do acknowledge that our stadium facility is inadequate and sub-standard.

6. Everyone has indicated that those students directly involved in the contest (team members, rally squad, band members, and coaches) generally demonstrated very positive sportsmanship.

In summary, it is apparent that some isolated individual negative actions from both communities have occurred. None of us are so naive as to assume that, when 5,000 people gather at a sporting event, tension and excitement cannot get distorted. It is also very important and comforting for all of us to know that both coaches and student athletes were positive about their experiences during the game.

Finally, we were very concerned when we were advised this past Monday that Grant High School in Portland had decided not to come to Roseburg in January to play a varsity basketball game. Their decision was based upon the alleged problems experienced by Benson High School during the playoff game in Roseburg. It is important to know that over the past four plus years numerous Portland students/athletes have been hosted in our homes with very positive results. Now, isn't it unfortunate that a few misguided individuals at one ball game can affect the opportunities and perspectives of so many?

It is the judgment of our colleagues and it is our opinion that Roseburg Senior High School and the community of Roseburg have been unfairly labeled and accused. We believe the young people of Roseburg and the supporting community abhore any form of racism and any association with unsportsmanlike conduct. We are very proud of our record of excellence in both the academic and athletic achievements. We are committed to the emphasis of sportmanship through our coaches, kids, and the community. We believe it is crucial to encourage future competitions and association with the Portland school programs and especially to encourage the re-scheduling of the Grant basketball game in an effort to demonstrate that a small few cannot determine the opportunities or perspectives of the greater positive majority. We believe our good competitive associations in the past have far out-weighed any recent perceived problems.

Let us continue as a school and community to represent the best of sportsmanship, competition, and accomplishments. Roseburg is a great place to live and to raise kids.

cc: OSAA, Dr. Peterson
News Review, Roseburg, OR
Oregonian
S.O.C. Principals
Benson High School
Grant High School

Dec. 22, 1987

Coach John Stilwell
Grant High School
c/o 4229 NE 38th
Portland, OR 97211

Dear Coach Stilwell:

If you were aware of all of the facts, you would have understood why Prophet and Pheister decided that Grant basketball teams should not play at Roseburg. Benson players and fans were subjected not only to racial remarks but physical assaults. It was an unsafe environment that you were protected from by the decision not to send Grant teams to Roseburg.

As we will describe in our formal complaint to the OSAA, the racial incidents occurred in a milling crowd of thousands in a large, open space, outdoors at night in the fog -- an environment far less controlled than a gym. Besides being far outnumbered, the atmosphere was intimidating due to Roseburg's seating plan which separated our relatively small number of Benson supporters (about 200) into three small endzone sections. The reserved parent section was on the other side of the field from our bench, our cheerleaders, and our children seated in the unreserved student section. Benson players, students and parents recounted incidents such as the following:

- a group of black Benson students as they ran around the track surrounding the field with a Benson banner were called "niggers," spat on, and jumped;

- a group of three 15-year old girls was followed, taunted and shoved by adult males as they walked through the crowd to the restrooms;

- another group of girls were taunted -- the black girls called "niggers," the white girls called "nigger lovers" while security people laughed at what they heard;

- groups of students and adults ran by repeatedly shouting "go home, niggers" to our players as they warmed up before the game;

- approximately 30 Roseburg fans surrounded a Benson booster bus after the game shouting and using obscene gestures and delaying its exit for nearly a half an hour.

That these incidents did not escalate into fights with injuries can be credited to Benson coaches preaching restraint before the game and to Benson students' fear of provoking worse incidents if they had retaliated when greatly outnumbered. Your parents would resist sending their children into situations where their safety was jeopardized. How could you "guarantee" their safety five weeks after the Benson incidents?

We are not a "few Benson supporters" (60 were present at our first meeting; 100 at our second) who were disgruntled over traveling to Roseburg (no protest was made), nor was it sour grapes over losing the game. Benson teams are involved in playoff games in many sports all the time and lost a semi-final football game last year. No complaints were made by us then. In response to one team member's question as to whether

parents would have complained to the OSAA if Benson had won the Roseburg game, the overwhelming response was "yes."

"Beating them" (Steve Duin column, 12/21 Oregonian) is not a solution to the problem. Not everyone can "beat them." Taking advantage of this situation to make a hero of yourself shows a lack of understanding of the problem. Furthermore, comparing a preseason, non-league basketball game to a football playoff game is absurd.

Benson parents' intent is not to "ask for more trouble" or be unwilling to be "peacemakers" (same column). Racist elements in Roseburg may never be eliminated. Of course Benson parents support long-term efforts for understanding between the communities. More immediately, however, our goal simply is not to subject ourselves and our children to this kind of abuse again. Most of the problem can be prevented simply by scheduling those football playoff games with the potential for racial incidents at neutral sites.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Bushman

Jerry Bushman

cc: Ron Pheister
Matthew Prophet
Tom Parr
Larry Hildebrand
Steve Duin
Don Peterson
Lou Frederick
Rick Metsger
Eddie Robertson
Kay Schultz

PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

To: Staff & Students
Fr: Tom Parr, Principal

There has been a rumor going around regarding the possibility that some Benson students might go to the Roseburg vs Lakeridge championship football game tomorrow to harass, or belittle the Roseburg fans.

I certainly hope that no one from Benson would lower themselves to do such a thing. To do so would place in jeopardy the fine reputation that Benson enjoys throughout the state as a highly competitive school that continually demonstrates excellent sportsmanship.

Monday, I received a letter of apology from the Roseburg Athletic Director that states. "Benson High is a class act in Oregon High School athletics and has been so for years. We at RHS want to be your friendly competition, not your adversaries. While playoff intensity undoubtedly added to the problem last week, we want you to know that we never intended to purposely inconvenience our visitors. Please accept my apologies for any and all problems you and your fans experienced last Friday. etc. ....."

We recognize that there were a number of intolerable slurs thrown by Roseburg fans at our players and fans. I, along with representatives of the superintendent's staff, will be filing a formal protest of the unacceptable seating, choosing of officials, cost or reserved seating and unsportsmanship like behavior of their fans.

I hope that no one or group will do anything to embarrass Benson that could also result in our being ineffective with our appropriate formal protest.

Should any Benson student disregard this request, and bring embarrassment to the school, they will face a formal suspension.

THANK YOUR FOR YOUR COOPERATION

12-19-87

Dear Sir: Enclosed is just one of the many letters written locally. I would like to identify myself but I am involved in the athletics and care to keep my name out of this. I do think that you should know that I witnessed a couple of your players before the game asking how our team felt about blacks and when the answer was "No problem" your players said "Well, they are going to hate our black ass when we get through with them"! I witnessed grabbing of the genitals in front of our adult section, flipping off our people by YOUR PLAYERS and your coach saying "Yeah Right" when our coach congratulated him on a good game afterwords. Which was O.K. I guess. Your athletic director should have controlled your students from running loose on the track. They were looking for trouble. There were alot of things Benson did that was kept quiet probably not to "ruffle feathers". Maybe they should be brought out. We are not so called "Bigots" we have a "black on our team" we have a "Black" Junior High football coach and we welcome blacks to our homes during athletic events to spend the night. I think it is up to you to make this known to your school. We feel we were the victims of "DISCRIMINATION" here. Badly taken advantage of by some very poor sportsman. I hope you can see where it might be advantageous to clear the water at your school and let them start taking a look at their treatment to a sports minded town who appreciates good athletic programs and welcomes out of town teams, Black or white.

Maybe you coachshould have a special practice with his players on "Etique and Sportmanship" as well as how to conduct themselves as gentlemen.

Not prejudiced

I am a 1985 graduate of RHS and it makes me sick when I read something like the letter in the Dec. 10 Public Forum by Steve Smith. How dare he suggest that our entire community would be better represented by the slogan "Home of the Prejudice" rather than "Home of the Indians"! Being a former member of the Roseburg High School Marching Band, I am well aware of the reputation Roseburg had in the past for being a "redneck," hick town. But never during my four years as a student at RHS did I witness any racial conflicts when dealing with people from varied ethnic backgrounds.

The band, the choir and the athletic teams have happily and excitedly opened their homes to visiting students without a second thought about their race. Does this sound like "Home of the Prejudice" to you? I also attended the Roseburg-Benson game and I am sure if any out-of-staters were there, that they enjoyed a very impressive football game between two very talented teams, being cheered on by enthusiastic, good-natured fans.

During the game I took time out to walk around and not once did I hear a bigoted comment, not one. While I was trying to enjoy the game though, I was rudely distracted by a young man on the Benson sidelines. While facing the crowd, he held his crotch and made obscene gestures through most of the game.

It also struck me odd to see Benson fans running our track whenever their team scored. They were either very naive and expected us to cheer them on or they were trying to antagonize the crowd. When approached about it, they shouted the insults, not us! Obviously the Roseburg fans weren't entirely to blame for the tension at that game. And I'm sure what few insults were directed at Benson even fewer were racial, if any. And, I'm willing to bet that if Benson had won, they wouldn't be shouting racism. Nor would they have felt it necessary to trash Burger King, or file a formal complaint with the OSAA against our 'treatment' of them.

The only 'treatment' Roseburg gave Benson was on the football field. But according to one Benson coach I observed escorting one of his players off the field, "We all know they cheated!" What a cop-out! And what an awful thing for a coach to tell one of his players.

And I can't help but wonder if the Benson parents are the instigators of their children's unjustified, harsh feelings toward Roseburg. At the least they've helped blow things out of proportion.

No racism is justifiable, but neither are false accusations.

Portland, Roseburg school chiefs meet

In the wake of alleged racial incidents during a state playoff football game last month between Roseburg and Benson high schools, the superintendents from the two school districts emerged from a meeting at Salem Monday vowing to improve relations between their two communities.

Benson parents and players claimed they were subjects of racial harassment during Roseburg's 21-19 quarterfinal victory Nov. 27 at Roseburg. Ron Pheister, director of athletic activities for Portland Public Schools, then announced that Grant High School of Portland would not play boys and girls basketball games at Roseburg on Jan. 2.

Portland School Superintendent Matthew Prophet and Roseburg Superintendent Richard Eisenhauer, who had been in touch previously by telephone, met Monday morning at the invitation of Verne Duncan, state school superintendent.

After the meeting, the state Department of Education issued a statement that quoted Prophet as saying: "The incidents that occurred are most unfortunate. I am convinced, however, that Superintendent Eisenhauer and I can seize this as an excellent opportunity to promote racial relationships between our two communities and other communities around the state."

Bogle Warns of Racism

The following letter was sent to all Oregon state legislators by City Commissioner Dick Bogle.

Racism in Oregon is a ticking time bomb, waiting to explode.

On Nov. 27, students and parents from Portland's Benson Tech learned firsthand how great the potential for violence is. During their stay in Roseburg, for what should have been just another high school football game, they were subjected to threats and harassment. People spit at them, chanted "go home nigger," threw things at them, and tried to provoke fights.

Jerry Bushman, father of Benson quarterback Joe Bushman, said of Roseburg, "That's the most hostile place I have ever seen." Bushman, who is white added, "I felt uneasy about getting out of there."

What happened in Roseburg could happen anywhere in the state — and *will* happen, unless we take step now to defuse the bomb.

That' why I'm writing to you. I want you to join me in rallying Oregonians to the banner of racial and ethnic harmony.

You can help by hosting a public forum in your district. Discuss what happened in Roseburg. Ask people to examine their own attitudes, and those of their neighbors. Talk about what can be done to reeducate young people whose minds have been twisted by the bigotry of their parents. Take a hard look at local activity, if any, by neo-Nazis or other organized hate groups (like it or not, they're on the rise in the Pacific Northwest).

We cannot hide from racism by pretending it doesn't exist. Those people who exposed the hatred in their hearts at the football game in Roseburg need to know that their behavior was shameful. People like that, wherever they are found in our state, need to know that the vast majority of Oregonians will not tolerate racist violence, or the threat thereof.

Please do your part to focus public attention on this issue, so that what took place in Roseburg on Nov. 27 won't happen next month, or a year from now, in your own backyard.

I would appreciate hearing from you, especially if you plan to participate in what I hope will be a statewide airing of the issue. It is only through an open dialogue that we can begin to understand the causes of racism and bigotry, and take steps to assure that the minds of future generations are freed from the shackles of prejudice.

Commissoner Dick Bogle
Office of Public Safety
Portland, Oregon

The Sunday Oregonian

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DECEMBER 27, 1987

Racism requires action

Cancellation of a basketball game between Grant and Roseburg high schools may be an overreaction to reports of blatant racism at a Benson-Roseburg playoff football game. But the inaction of the Roseburg community and state school activities association clearly is an underreaction.

Certainly the acts of a few bigoted individuals are not representative of the attitudes of the majority of Roseburg's residents and the high school's student body, nor of fans and athletes statewide. Yet, the fact that no one complained to Roseburg school officials during or immediately after the game about the racial slurs hurled at black athletes and fans from Benson suggests an environment that is more tolerant of such abuse than should exist in this state.

Moreover, the expressed concern of Roseburg officials is about negative publicity and the unfair image presented of the community, not about what ought to be learned from the complaints and how black and other minority youngsters can be reassured that they can travel without insult in Southern Oregon.

Roseburg school officials' investigation concluded that some "isolated individual negative actions from both communities have occurred." That rings of "It wasn't so bad," and "What they did was as bad as what some of our folks might have done," not a pealing denunciation of racism.

Roseburg officials have not invited the Portlanders to describe the abuse and their feelings to a school or community assembly from which students and adults might learn about racism, blatant and subtle.

Nor has the Oregon State School Activities Association attempted to bring the parties together, to work out their concerns face to face. A fine, probation or refusal to schedule playoff games in Roseburg for two or three years would be harsh punishment of many for the actions of a few. But a warning should be forthcoming — to all schools — that a repeat of anything like the Roseburg-Benson racism will be treated sternly.

No community has a lock on racism. It exists in metropolitan areas as well as in rural areas. But concerned residents here are understandably shocked by the reports from Roseburg. They are fighting the human-rights battles of the 1980s — affirmative action and subtle racism — not the blatant racism of the 1950s, '60s and '70s that raised its ugly face again in a high school football playoff game just weeks ago.

Free trade means free trade

The Reagan administration deserves credit for its long and so far successful fight against protectionist forces in Congress. But word that U.S. Commerce Department intimidation has prompted Massachusetts ucts" may be subject to dumping proceedings brought by the private petitioners or the U.S. government — the same U.S. government advising MIT and also providing millions of research dollars to MIT.

What

By DAVID SARASO
Associate Editor, The O

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January 8, 1988

Mr. Don Peterson
Executive Director, OSAA
6900 S.W. Haines Road
Tigard, OR 97223

Dear Don,

Thank you for coming to the parent meeting held December 10th to hear the thirty or more complaints of racial harassment and concerns regarding the inappropriate seating of Benson parents and students at Roseburg during the quarterfinal game held there on November 27, 1987.

It is important to state again, that to our knowledge no one on the Roseburg team, or staff, acted anything other than in a sportsmanship like way.

As a governing organization, the OSAA has control over game management and game location. The organization should maintain control over the seating arrangements. If these factors were properly considered, along with the possibility of racial conflicts, there would be less potential for problems and situations similar to those described in our meeting with you December 10th.

You stated at the conclusion of the meeting that as an organization, OSAA can only respond to the local school, but not to parent groups.

These complaints and recommendations come to you and the board as a result of a follow-up meeting of Benson parents and administration held on January 6th. The members of our committee included, Eddie Robinson, Benson parent, Jerry and Mimi Bushman, Benson parents, Dr. Larry Ayers, Director of Instruction, Ron Pheister, Director of Athletics, P.P.S., Lynn Hewitt, Asst. Dir of Athletics, P.P.S., Mike Kostrba, Benson Athletic Director, and myself. We sincerely feel that if the following recommendations had been in place and followed, the greatest portion of the problems encountered at Roseburg would not have occurred.

This letter is a formal complaint. The first complaint is, in our judgment, the OSAA does not have adequate guidelines and rules for the management of athletic contests (particularly those involving racially mixed teams). A second complaint is, the Roseburg school officials did not provide proper seating arrangements, nor did they prepare appropriately for a playoff game that included a racially mixed team.

We respectfully request that the OSAA Executive Board, at its earliest convenience, consider this complaint and the following recommendations as the board makes decisions regarding the safety and welfare of patrons and student athletes throughout the state.

1. State AAA football playoff games at the second round game and beyond, should be played at a neutral field or at Civic, Parker, or Autzen Stadium.

2. At all contests, <u>properly trained</u> security personnel and/or properly trained parents should be in attendance to assist with student supervision and crowd control.

3. The patrons/fans of each of the teams should have equal opportunity to sit together in an area that will allow them to see the game and cheer on their teams. (The OSAA seating plan that was in place in 1984/85 addressed this issue sufficiently.)

4. A committee that includes some ethnic minority representation should be immediately established to study and make recommendations to schools on how to prepare for contests that will have minority participants involved. This committee should also consider what actions or penalties might take place if a school or community were to disregard the recommended practices.

5. The OSAA should take whatever steps necessary to have ethnic minority representation on the Executive Board.

Attached, for your information, is a packet of all the letters, articles etc. that have either been in the press or sent to the school. These issues will continue at athletic events throughout the state until the OSAA takes some action as a remedy. As we are well aware, the issues of racism throughout the state cannot be dealt with at only an athletic level. As a result of this particular issue, there are many groups and individuals dealing with racism on the state level. The OSAA's assistance and attention to improving the climate at athletic events will be greatly appreciated.

We request a response to this formal letter of complaint by your May 1988 meeting.

Sincerely yours

Tom Parr,
Principal

cc: Roseburg High School
Dr. Matt Prophet
Metro Athletic Coordinating Group